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MEMORANDUM

TO: Job File No. 931-064.200

FROM: Frank Blaha

DATE: August 28, 1995

SUBJECT: Telephone Interview Notes Regarding OU 4 (Solar Pond) Activities

I spoke with Mr. Andy Ledford (966-8673) today regarding the anticipated future activities at the solar ponds. He stated that the planned actions at the solar ponds have changed significantly in the last few months, and that it is entirely possible for further substantial change in the currently planned activities at the solar ponds. Thus, there is no guarantee that the currently planned activities will come to pass, and he wanted to make this clear to our project team.

Mr. Ledford is currently the the team lead for the solar ponds, and our point of contact for knowledge of the solar pond project.

Expected Overall Approach to Close the Solar Ponds: At this time the plan is to clean close the solar ponds. Under this plan the solar pond liners, liner foundations, contaminated debris, possibly some underground utilities, and soils above levels of concern will be removed and disposed in the first cell of the Corrective Action Management Unit (CAMU) to be built on plant-site. It is assumed some of the solar pond-generated materials will require treatment to meet the Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC) of the new CAMU and that this treatment will only consist of size reduction. The excavated materials will be replaced with clean fill, the area will be graded and revegetated, and closure will be done.

The first liner excavation is currently scheduled for October 1, 1996, which is the scheduled first date for waste acceptance at the CAMU. All excavated materials will be shipped upon generation, there will be no stockpiling or interim storage of materials. So, if the CAMU opening date is delayed, the liner excavation date will also be delayed. It is expected that the clean closure actions will generate 22,000 cubic yards of liner and substrate material, 22,000 cubic yards of soil, and 700 cubic yards of debris.

Nitrate Contaminated Groundwater and Interceptor Trench Pump House System (ITPH): At the current time shallow groundwater near the solar ponds is collected in the ITPH system, transferred for temporary storage in the modular tanks, and then transferred to Building 374 for treatment by evaporation. It is planned to continue collection and treatment of the groundwater until some overall groundwater remedial action is approved for this unit or the plant in general. At this time the remediation of contaminated

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groundwater at and near the solar ponds is a separate project from solar ponds closure. It is believed that clean closure of the solar ponds themselves can be implemented even while contaminated groundwater remains in the immediate area. The contaminated groundwater present in the solar pond area will probably be addressed in the integrated groundwater strategy document currently being prepared.

Status of the Building 910 Evaporators: The Building 910 evaporators have not operated in over one year, but they are held in a stand-by state of readiness for water treatment. These evaporators consist of three separate 18 gallon per minute units which are permitted RCRA units for operational purposes. The units produce water of excellent quality, but the operational and maintenance costs are high, approaching $9.00 per gallon of water. The Building 374 evaporators costs are less than $1.00 per gallon of water. At this time there is no plan to use the Building 910 evaporators now or in the future, nor is there any plan to close the evaporators under RCRA. At the current time there are no trained operators for these evaporators at Rocky Flats, and it is estimated that it would take approximately 6 to 8 months to train operators and make changes in the evaporators to correct design flaws.

Building 374 Evaporative Capacity: The evaporative capacity of Building 374 has been on a gradual decline over the past year. At the current time the 374 evaporators are shutdown for repairs, but Mr. Ledford estimates their overall capacity to be on the order of 15 to 16 gallons per minute (gpm). Once the current repairs and some minor improvements are made, it is expected that the evaporators will capable of a 25 gpm throughput. The design capacity of the Building 374 evaporators is reported to be 60 gpm.

Former Plan: The former plan for closure of the solar ponds, a plan that had recently gone through the public comment process, had been to construct an elaborate RCRA cap over the area of the solar ponds. Contaminated soils and materials present at the solar ponds were to remain under the cap, and pond crete materials currently stored at the 750 and 904 pads were also to be disposed under this cap. This plan and approach is no longer being pursued. Contaminated groundwater near the solar ponds was to be treated in a pump-and-treat system that essentially consisted of the ITPH with supplemental wells where appropriate.

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